ARTICLES
CONCERNING
Matters Eccleſiaſtical;
To be Enquired of within the
DIOCESE
OF
LINCOLN,
AT A
TRIENNIAL VISITATION
OF THE
Right Reverend Father in God
JAMES
Lord Biſhop of that Dioceſe.

Together with ADVICE to the *Church-Wardens* and *Side-Men* in the ſaid Dioceſe.

LONDON, Printed for *Brab. Aylmer*, at the *Three Pigeons* in *Cornhill*. 1703.

The Form of the Oath to be Administred to the Church-Wardens and Side-men of every Parish.

YOU shall Swear to make True Presentment, according to the Book *of* Articles *given You in Charge, as far as You know, and by Law You are Bound, without Fear or Favour of any Person.*

So help You God.

A D.

ADVICE

TO THE

Church-Wardens *and* Side-Men

IN THE

Dioceſe of *Lincoln.*

I Am ſenſible that the *Church-Wardens* and *Side-Men* in all Dioceſes, and eſpecially in this of *Lincoln*, which is of ſo large Extent, containing Counties in which there are various Cuſtoms and Manners, muſt needs be Men of different Abilities and Capacities, having different Employments, according to their Education and Subſtance; as alſo of different Humours and Principles, and of different Opinions and Judgments in ſome Points of Religion: So that no Advice but what is general, can reach to all.

But that ſome *Advice* is needful, is too plain by the Experiences of *Biſhops* and *Arch-Deacons* in their reſpective *Viſitations*; who cannot be ſufficiently informed of the evil Lives and Manners either of the Clergy or Laity, or of the Defects of things requiſite in and about the Pariſh-Churches, or of other Buildings that are out of Order, and therefore cannot correct what is amiſs, nor ſupply what is wanting, but by the Aſſiſtance of the *Church-Wardens*; for the proper way to come to the Knowledge of theſe Diſorders and Scandals, is by their *Preſentments*, according to thoſe Articles that are delivered to them.

And indeed ſome General Rules of *Advice* may ſerve ſufficiently for Men that have the General Qualification of *Fidelity* and *Honeſty*, which all *Church-wardens* ought to have. They ought to underſtand the Senſe and Obligation of an *Oath*, grounded upon the Belief and Fear of God, and of the Account that muſt be made hereafter of the Diſcharge of their Truſt; and if they have this Qualification, however unlearned or unskilful they may otherwiſe be, and of whatſoever Condition and Quality, they are capable of performing this Office.

I therefore apply my ſelf to you the *Church-wardens* and *Sides-men* of the ſeveral Pariſhes within my Dioceſe, as *honeſt* and *faithful* Men, and expect ſuch Aſſiſtance from you in my Viſitation as belongs to your Office, by preſenting all things that may come, by diligent and impartial Enquiry, to your Knowledge, that are fit to be preſented.

I know you will labour under ſome Temptations and Difficulties, in diſcharging your Duty faithfully.

You may be ſollicited by ſome *Offenders* to conceal their Faults, although notorious enough. Perſons of *Quality* and *Eſtate* may expect and demand ſome Connivances. Others may promiſe *Amendment* for the future, if they may be ſpared for the preſent. *Dependance*, and *Relation*, and *Civility* will ſometimes ſway. And the ſaving Charges and Expences, in the rectifying things that are amiſs, and providing things that are wanting, will gratify the Generality of the Pariſh.

Theſe *Motives* may prevail with Men of mean Condition, and poor Spirits, and no Conſcience. But on the other ſide, the *Oath* of God is, and ought to be, a *Motive* greater than all theſe, eſpecially with Men that have any Belief of Religion, or any Senſe of God, who is the main Object of our Fear and Hope.

Such as ſet God before their Eyes in what they do, eſpecially in what they do deliberately, would not be guilty of *Perjury* for all the World; knowing this, That they muſt either *Repent* or be *damned* for it. It is not the Fear of ſome Men, nor the Favour of others, that can betray

betray such a Man to act against his Conscience; or, after Consideration, to swear falsly, and to damn his own *Soul* to save other Mens *Purses*, and *Reputation*.

I doubt not therefore, but that all of you who have been bred up in the Knowledge, and Belief of God, and of the Christian Religion, and that part of it particularly which is the *Judgment* to come, will use great Deliberation, and take care to keep a good *Conscience* in the Faithful Performance of your Duty, of which you must give an account, knowing that by your *Oath* you call God to be your *Witness* and your *Judge*.

Nor are you to set God before your Eyes only as a *Judge* and an *Avenger*, but also as an *Encourager* and *Rewarder* of all those that perform their Trusts and Duties *faithfully*, of what kind soever.

It is an acceptable Service to God to promote the good *Government* and *Discipline* of the Church of Christ, and he will reward you for it.

It is in your Power to bring *Offenders* into Light and View, which may be a good means to reclaim and reform them.

You may discover *secret* Sinners, and check the *Prophane*, the *Blasphemous*, and *Scandalous* of all Qualities.

Even those that serve in the *sacred Ministry*, are not exempt from your Notice and Observation; and to signify their Miscarriages, with due Reverence to their Office, may be a means to bring them into better Conduct and Regularity.

It is in some measure within your Power, that as *neither Fornicators, nor Idolaters, nor Adulterers, nor Effeminate, nor Abusers of themselves with mankind, nor Thieves, nor Covetous, nor Drunkards, nor Revilers, nor Extortioners, shall inherit the Kingdom of God* in Heaven; so they may not enjoy the Privileges of it upon Earth, without Repentance and Reformation, 1 *Cor.* 6. 9, 10.

It is in your Power to secure the *Revenues* of the Church from Spoil and Sacrilege, by giving in exact and faithful *Terrars*, in which I desire you to be very careful and just.

You

You may do right to the *Poor*, as well as to other Pariſhioners, by diſcovering the Abuſes that are committed in the Uſe, and Diſtribution of publick and charitable *Donations*; which Abuſes are too common.

You may render the Publick Worſhip and Service of God eaſy and agreeable, by providing all things requiſite and convenient for the Performance of it. As for Inſtance,

1. That the *Seats* and *Floors* of the Church and Chancel be ſo diſpoſed, that the People may *kneel*, and not *lean*, in the time of Prayer.

2. That the Holy Sacraments of *Baptiſm* and the *Lord's Supper*, which are ſolemn Chriſtian Rites, may be adminiſtred *orderly*, in their *proper* Places, with *decent* Utenſils and Ornaments, and without Confuſion.

It is your Duty to preſerve that part of the *Church* which appertains to the Pariſhioners in good Repair; and to preſent the Defects of the *Chancel*, where there are any ſuch; That ſo the whole *Fabrick* may be maintained both within, and without, as it becomes a Place erected and conſecrated to the Uſes of *Religion*. That there be nothing wanting or miſuſed which the Canon requires; and that the Church be kept, at leaſt, as clean as you would do your own Houſes.

Many other Inſtances there are, wherein you may be uſeful in the Pariſhes where you are concerned; But I cannot now, and I hope I need not mention them all. If you diſcharge the whole *faithfully*, and *impartially*, God will bleſs and reward you, and good Men will praiſe you, and evil Men will fear, but not injure you; and, what ought further to encourage you, your own Conſciences will acquit you.

Now,

Now in order to this, I ſhall only add theſe ſhort Directions.

1. That you Read, or cauſe to be read *deliberately* to you, this Paper of *Advice*, together with the Articles, before you come to the Viſitation, taking the Aſſiſtance of your Miniſter.

2. That you recollect what you know, or have heard of any thing which is Matter of ill *Fame* or *Scandal*, within your Pariſh; and examine into it thoroughly and impartially, that you may, if it be poſſible, know the certain Truth of it.

3. That you look ſtrictly into, and about the *Church*, and *Church-yard*, that you may ſee what is out of Repair, or wanting, according to the Articles, and Repair and Supply what you can before the Viſitation. If you have not time for all, Preſent what is amiſs, and time may be given. Particularly, ſee that the *Bible*, and *Common-Prayer*-Books, and other Books mentioned in the Articles, be perfect and well covered, and that all the *Utenſils* of the Church be ſuch as the Canon requires; and take care of one other thing, which is much neglected about moſt Churches, that you cut down and root up ſuch *Trees* as grow within the Walls or about the Foundations, which do much Damage to the Fabrick.

4. When you come to the Place of Viſitation, that you forbear the taking of any Refreſhment before you go to Church, that you may behave your ſelves *orderly* in the time of Divine Service and Sermon. This alſo will diſpoſe you to take your Oaths *ſeriouſly* and *gravely*, as in the Sight and Preſence of God. It is a ſad thing to ſee how careleſly and inconſiderately ſome Men ſwear in Publick Courts, both Eccleſiaſtical and Civil.

5. That

5. That your *Entertainment* afterwards, and at all other times in Pariſh Buſineſs, be *moderate*; which will not only ſave the Pariſh ſome Charges, which you (being only intruſted by them) ought to conſider, but alſo it may be a means to prevent *Intemperance*, which beſides the Evil of it, is alſo at ſuch a time more ſcandalous, and what it is your Duty to Preſent others for, and therefore you ſhould not practiſe it your ſelves.

If you obſerve this Advice and Directions, you will perform your Duty *uſefully* to the Church, and *comfortably* to your ſelves; And I pray God Almighty make you ſenſible of the Obligation you lie under ſo to do.

ARTI-

ARTICLES
CONCERNING
Matters Eccleſiaſtical, &c.
IN THE
Dioceſe of *LINCOLN.*

TIT. I.

Concerning Churches and Chappels, and the Furniture belonging to them.

1. IS your Pariſh-Church or Chappel well and ſufficiently repaired, the Windows glazed, not ſtopped up, the Floor evenly paved, and the Seats convenient for Kneeling and Sitting, and the whole Church clean and decent? Canon 85.

2. Hath any part of your Church or Chappel, or Steeple, been demoliſhed or fallen down, what part, and how long ſince? Or hath any of the Lead, Timber, or Bells been imbezled or ſold, and by whom? Canon 81, 82.

3. Is there in the Church or Chappel a Font of Stone with a Cover to it, ſtanding in the uſual Place? Is there a decent Communion Table in your Chancel, covered in time of Divine Service, with a Carpet of Silk or Stuff, and, at the time of Adminiſtring the Holy Communion, with a fair Linnen Cloath? Have you a Patin for the

Bread, and a Chalice for the Wine with a Cover, and one or more Flaggons preſerved and kept for this Uſe, and not imployed for any other?

3. Canon 58. 4. Have you a decent Surplice for the Miniſter to uſe at the time of Divine Service, provided and duly waſhed at the Charge of the Pariſh?

4. Canon 83, 80. 5. Have you in the Church or Chappel a convenient Seat or Pew for the Reading of Divine Service; a Pulpit with a Cloath or Cuſhion; a Large Bible of the laſt Tranſlation; Two Books of Common-Prayer for the Miniſter and Clerk, well bound; The Book of Homilies ſet forth by Authority; The Book of Canons; A Printed Table of the Degrees wherein Marriages are prohibited?

5. Canon 70. 6. Have you a Regiſter-book of Parchment, of the Day and Year of all Chriſtenings, Weddings, and Burials in your Pariſh; and for Affidavits of Burial in Woollen; Alſo a Book for the Church-Wardens Accounts; and a ſtrong Cheſt with Locks and Keys wherein to keep all the ſaid Books, and the forementioned Furniture?

TIT. II.

Concerning the Church-yard, Houſes, Glebe, Tithes and Poſſeſſions belonging to the Church.

1. Canon 85. 1. IS your Church-yard ſufficiently fenced, and carefully kept with Walls, Pales, or Rails, as has been accuſtomed? are the Trees therein preſerved? has any part of it been ſeparated from it, or any Door made into it?

2. *Lindwood de Eccleſ. Ædifi.* 2. Is the Houſe of the Parſon, Vicar, or Curate, with all the Out-houſes thereunto belonging, kept in good and ſufficient Repair? Have any of the ſaid Houſes been defaced or pulled down without Licenſe, and by whom? Have any Encroachments been made upon the ſame, and by whom?

3. Canon 87. 3. Have you a true Terrier of all the Glebe-lands, Meadows, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements or Cottages belonging to the Parſonage or Vicarage? Have you a particular of the Penſions, Rate-Tithes, and Portion of Tithes,

Tithes, either within or without your Pariſh, and other yearly Profits belonging to your Parſonage or Vicarage? Have any Incloſures been made in your Pariſh to the Detriment of the Church, by the decay of Tillage; and converting Arable Land into Paſture? Is your Terrier entred in the Biſhop's Regiſtry?

TIT. III.

Concerning Miniſters.

1. IS your Miniſter Epiſcopally ordained, and Licenſed by the Biſhop himſelf? hath he been legally inducted? and hath he read the Thirty nine Articles within the Time by Law appointed, and declared his Aſſent thereunto? — 1. Canon 36.

2. Is your Miniſter ſuſpected to have obtained his Benefice by any Simoniacal Contract? — 2. Canon 40.

3. Is your Miniſter conſtantly reſident in the Pariſh? does he preach every Lord's Day, unleſs hindred by Sickneſs, or reaſonable Abſence? How long in any one year hath he been abſent from his Cure? Hath he a Licenſed Curate to aſſiſt him in his abſence or preſence? and what Yearly Stipend doth he allow him? Doth he ſupply any other Cure beſides, or hath he any other Eccleſiaſtical Benefice? — 3. Canon 45, 47.

4. Doth your Parſon, Vicar, or Curate, in reading the Morning and Evening Service, Adminiſtration of the Holy Sacraments, Celebration of Marriage, Churching of Women, Burial of the Dead, and Pronouncing God's Commination againſt impenitent Sinners, uſe the Form and Words preſcribed in the Book of Common-Prayer? doth he obſerve all ſuch Rites and Ceremonies as are appointed in that Book, ſo far as you know? — 4. Act of Uniformity.

5. Doth your Miniſter at the Reading and Celebrating Divine Offices, wear the Surplice, together with the Habit ſuitable to his Degree? And doth he read the Service with an audible and diſtinct Voice? — 5. Canon 58. Act of Uniformity.

6. Doth he frequently adminiſter the Sacrament of the Lord's-Supper, ſo often, as that every Pariſhioner may receive — 6 Canon 21, 26.

ceive it thrice at the leaſt in a year? And doth he keep back ſuch as ought not to be admitted, giving an account of them to the Biſhop?

7. Canon 59, 61. 7. Doth he diligently inſtruct the Youth of the Pariſh in the Church Catechiſm; and when they are inſtructed, doth he, as there is opportunity, preſent them to be confirmed by the Biſhop?

8. Canon 67, 68, 69. *Rubrick* of Private Baptiſm. 8. Doth he neglect or refuſe to viſit ſick Perſons? Doth he delay to baptize Infants that are in danger of Death? Or being ſo baptized and recovering afterwards, does he take care that they be brought into the Church with Godfathers and Godmothers, that the Congregation may be ſatisfied of the baptizing thereof; Is there any Child paſt Infancy, or other Perſons grown up, who through your Miniſter's default, remains yet unbaptized in your Pariſh?

9. Canon 62, 63. Injunct. 9. Hath your Miniſter married any Perſons in private Houſes? Or ſuch as being under Age, have not the conſent of Parents or Guardians? or without the publication of Banns, unleſs by a Licence duly obtained? Or at any other hours than between eight and twelve a Clock in the Forenoon? Or, at any hour, Perſons that are prohibited to marry, according to the Table of Marriage? Or ſuch as neither of them dwell in the Pariſh?

10 Canon 64. 3 *Jac.* 1. *c.* 1. 6 & 7. *Gul.* 3. 10. Doth your Miniſter publiſh the Holy-days and Faſting days, and doth he read Divine Service appointed to be read thoſe days? doth he on the fifth of *November* yearly, after Morning Prayer or Sermon, read the Act for Publick Thankſgiving on that day? And doth he read the Act for the more effectual ſuppreſſing Prophane Curſing and Swearing, four ſeveral times in the year, on the four ſeveral Sundays appointed in that Act?

11. Canon 74, 75. 11. Is your Miniſter ſober, grave, and peaceable in his Behaviour? Is he decent in his Apparel? Is he a frequenter of Taverns or Ale-houſes, a common Gameſter, a Swearer, Railer or Quarreller? Is he vehemently ſuſpected of Incontinency with any Perſon either within the Pariſh or without?

12. Act of Uniformity. 12. Have you a Lecturer in your Church or Chappel? Is he Licenſed according to the Act of Uniformity? doth he, upon the firſt Lord's-day in every Month, read Divine Ser-

Service, and perform what the ſaid Act requires? Hath he a Benefice with Cure of Souls elſewhere? if he have, where, and at what diſtance?

TIT. IV.

Concerning the Pariſhioners.

1. DO the Pariſhioners when they come to Church or Chappel, behave themſelves reverently during the time of Divine Service and Preaching? do they kneel at the Prayers and Sacrament, and ſtand up, when the Creeds and Goſpel are read? do they repeat the Confeſſion, Lord's-Prayer and Creeds with the Miniſter, and make ſuch other Anſwers as are appointed in the Book of Common-Prayer, and ſay *Amen* audibly at the Concluſion of every Collect? 1. Canon 18. Act of Uniformity.

2. Is there any Perſon in your Pariſh, who lieth under a common Fame or Suſpicion of Adultery, Fornication or Inceſt? Are there any common Drunkards, Swearers or Blaſphemers of God's Name? Or any that are noted to be filthy Talkers, Railers, Sowers of Sedition, Faction and Diſcord among their Neighbours? 2. Can. 109.

3. Are there any of your Pariſh, who upon Sundays keep their Shops open, or follow their bodily and ordinary Labour, or permit their Servants ſo to do? Or do any Vintners, Innkeepers or other Victuallers and Sellers of Beer or Ale, ſuffer any Perſon to tipple or game in their Houſes on that day? 3. 5 and 6. *Ed.* 6 4 & 5. *Gul.* & *Mar.*

4. Are there any of your Pariſh that neglect or refuſe to pay their *Eaſter* Offering; or to pay the Rates ſet for the Repairs of the Church or Chappel, or any thing thereunto belonging? 4. Rubr. after the Communion. Canon 85.

5. Are there any in your Pariſh who live as Man and Wife, that are known, or ſuſpected not to be married, or any living as Man and Wife, who are within the degrees prohibited? 5. Canon 99.

6. Are there any Wills or Teſtaments of Perſons dead in your Pariſh that are not yet proved? or any Goods adminiſtred without a due Grant from the Ordinary? have 6.

any

any Legacies been left to your Church or Chappel, or to the Minister, or to the Poor, or for any other pious or charitable Use? What are these Legacies; and how have they been bestowed?

7. Canon 19. Act for exempt. Prot. Dissent.

7. Are there any that loiter in the Church-yard or near the Church, in time of Divine Service or Sermon? Or any that wholly neglect all publick Worship of God, neither going to Church, nor to any Assembly pretending to worship God elsewhere, in places licensed, according to a late Act for exempting his Majesty's Protestant Subjects dissenting from the Church of *England*, from the Penalties of certain Laws?

8. 8. Have you any such Assembly of Dissenters in your Parish? Do they, so far as you know, observe the Directions and Limitations of the aforesaid Act?

9. Canon 112. 9. Are there any who profess to live in the Communion of the Church of *England*, who neglect to come to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, being of age fit to receive it?

10. 10. Do you know, or have you heard of any in your Parish, who having a Presentation of an Ecclesiastical Living, hath made any *Simoniacal* Compact or Gain thereby, either in Moneys, or by Reserve of any part of the Tithes or Glebe belonging to the Benefice?

11. 11. Have any Pews, Galleries or Seats been erected in your Church or Chappel, without License from the Ordinary? Is there any Strife or Contention about Seats in your Church? or any Seats broken and unrepaired?

TIT. V.

Concerning Ecclesiastical Officers.

1 Canon 127. 1. HAve any Ordinaries or Ecclesiastical Judges appointed Surrogates or Registers, within your Parish, that are Promoters or Assisters of Clandestine Marriages, or have taken Rewards or Gifts for perverting Justice, or are noted for Intemperance, Incontinence, or other scandalous Vice?

2. Canon 37. 2. Do any Ecclesiastical Judges, Officials or Surrogates, grant Licenses to any Minister coming to reside in your Parish, to Preach, Read, Catechise, or Administer the Sacraments,

Sacraments, or to exerciſe any other Eccleſiaſtical Function, unleſs he have conſented and ſubſcribed to the three Articles in Canon 36. in the preſence of the Biſhop ?

3. Do the ſaid Eccleſiaſtical Officers, when your Living is vacant, commit Sequeſtrations to honeſt and ſufficient Men, that do anſwer and account truly for the Profits during the Vacancy ? Is your Pariſh provided with an able Miniſter during the Vacancy ? 3.

4. Do any Eccleſiaſtical Judges ſpeed any Judicial Act, without the Regiſtrar of the Court, or his lawful Deputy, or in their abſence, without ſuch Perſons as are allowed in that behalf to your Knowledge ? 4. Canon 123.

5. Do the Officers in peculiar Juriſdictions and Inferiour Courts, exhibit the Original Copies of Wills into the Principal Regiſter-Office as far as you know ? 5. Canon 126.

6. Hath any Eccleſiaſtical Officer commuted the Penance of any Delinquent convicted ? How has the Money been diſpoſed of within your Pariſh? 6. Canon. *Anno* 1571.

7. Hath any Eccleſiaſtical Officer demanded and taken any unlawful Fees that you know of? 7. Canon 135.

TIT. VI.

Concerning Pariſh Clerks and Sextons.

1. HAve you a Pariſh Clerk aged 21 years at leaſt ? Is he of an honeſt Life and Converſation ? Is he ſufficiently qualified to perform his Duty in Reading and Singing ? Is he choſen by your Miniſter ? Doth he duly attend him in all Divine Services in the Church ? Are his Wages duly paid him ? Or who withholds the ſame from him ? 1. Canon 91.

2. Doth he or the Sexton perform his Duty diligently, in keeping the Church and Chancel clean and decent, and Tolling and Ringing the Bells, at due times before Divine Service, as well upon other days, as upon Sundays ?

TIT. VII.

Concerning Hoſpitals, Schools, School-maſters, &c.

1. IS there in your Pariſh, any Hoſpital, Alms-houſe, or Free-School ? who was the Founder, and is now the Patron thereof ? Are the Revenues thereof rightly employed, 1. Canon 77, 78, 79.

ployed, according to the Intention of the Founder, and the Statutes and Orders made concerning the ſame?

2. Doth any Man keep School in your Pariſh who is not licenſed thereunto by the Biſhop? Is your School-maſter a diligent and ſober Man? Does he teach his Scholars the Church-Catechiſm? Does he cauſe them to repair to the Church or Chappel on Sundays, and other Days, when there is Divine Service, and ſee that they behave themſelves quietly and reverently? Does he teach School in the Church or Chancel?

2.

3. Doth any man in your Pariſh practiſe Phyſick or Chirurgery, or any Woman exerciſe the Office of a Midwife without Licenſe from the Ordinary?

3. 3. *Hen* 8. 11.

TIT. VIII.

Concerning Church-wardens and Side-Men.

1. ARE the Church-wardens yearly and duly choſen by the joint conſent of your Miniſter and Pariſhioners, or one of them by your Miniſter, and the other by the Pariſhioners?

1. Canon 89.

2. Have the former and laſt Church-wardens given a true Account of the Moneys they have received, and laid out for the Uſe of the Church? And have they delivered up the Moneys remaining in their hands, (if any be) to the ſucceeding Church-wardens, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

2. *ibid.*

3. Do they ſuffer no Misbehaviour or Diſorder to be done by Men or Women, Servants or Children, by walking or talking, or any other way, in your Church or Chappel?

3. Canon 18.

4. Do the Miniſter and Church-wardens provide againſt every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, a ſufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and good Wine, according to the Number of Communicants, at the Charge of the Pariſh?

4 Canon 20. *Rubr.* after the Communion.

5. Is the Money given at the Offertory diſpoſed of to Pious and Charitable Uſes, as the Miniſter and Church-wardens think fit?

5. *Rubr.* after the Communion.

FINIS.